

THE WHITE HOUSE

OSD Review Completed

WASHINGTON
February 9, 1971

TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: SAFEGUARD Steering Committee

The President has directed the creation of an interagency committee to develop in a coherent way the legislation and rationale to support his decision on SAFEGUARD. The Department of Defense has been charged with chairing this committee.

The President has directed the following guidelines to be used to develop the rationale:

(1) The proposed SAFEGUARD program is intended to provide flexibility for several contingencies regarding SALT: the talks might be inconclusive; we may make changes in the U.S. proposals or, we may continue negotiations based on our current proposal.

The President's program allows for all of these possibilities and, therefore, does not prejudge decisions to be made in SALT.

(2) The President's program also contributes to progress in SALT: no new sites specifically for area defense are requested; this confirms that our area defense can be modified if an equitable SALT agreement is reached. By keeping open the possibility of a Washington site, we also take account of the possibility of an agreement with NCA.

(3) The President's program also takes into account the apparent leveling-off of Soviet land-based ICBM deployments. The continuing test programs, qualitative improvements, and deployment of submarine launched ballistic missiles by the USSR, however, would not justify a lesser decision on SAFEGUARD.

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The President has directed that the rationale be developed and forwarded to him no later than February 19, 1971. When approved, the rationale will be provided to all agencies as guidance for Administration spokesmen. Until that time, there should be no comment on the President's SAFEGUARD decision.


Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Secretary of State
The Attorney General
The Director, Central Intelligence
Agency
The Director, Arms Control and
Disarmament Agency
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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MEMORANDUM

URGENT
ATTENTION

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: K. Wayne Smith/Hal Sonnenfeldt *KWS* *HS*

SUBJECT: SAFEGUARD Steering Committee

Attached for your signature are guidelines for the SAFEGUARD Steering Committee.

We think it is important to lay out the central theme in order to avoid later arguments. We want to preclude any efforts to use the SAFEGUARD Steering Committee for debates on our SALT position or for prejudicing SALT decisions still to be made.

If you wish to seek the President's approval first, the attached memorandum does so.

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